


## Claims

- 5 1. A process for preparing spherical oxide particles comprising the steps of shaping a starting material comprising an oxide hydrate into particles of substantially constant length by leading the material to a set of two rolls rotating towards each other followed by leading the material to a roll equipped with grooves to form rod-type shapes, cutting the rod-type shapes into particles of substantially constant length, converting the thus formed particles into spheres, and heating the particles to convert the oxide hydrate into an oxide.
- 10 2. The process of claim 1, wherein a lubricating oil is added before and/or after cutting.
- 15 3. Spherical oxide particles having a wear rate of less than 0.5 wt.%, more preferably less than 0.1 wt.% and substantially no difference in density between the core portion of the particles and the surface portion of the particles.
- 20 4. The spherical oxide particles of claim 3 wherein the wear rate is less than 0.1 wt.%.
- 25 5. A process for preparing a hydroprocessing catalyst in which a Group VI and/or a Group VIII metal component are incorporated into spherical oxide particles prepared by way of a process comprising the steps of shaping a starting material comprising an oxide hydrate into particles of substantially constant length by leading the material to a set of two rolls rotating towards

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